

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claims 16-26 have been withdrawn. Claims 1-5, 8-11 and 15 have been rejected and claims 6, 7 and 12-14 have been objected to by the Examiner. Claims 1, 7, 9, 13 and 14 are herein amended. Claims 6, 12 and 16-26 are canceled. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 9 were objected to because of the following informalities: 1) in line 10 of claim 1, “low-level voltages” appears to lack antecedent basis; and 2) in line 6 of claim 9, “of an odd wordline” appears to be inconsistent with the plural form of “of even wordlines” in line 8. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to correct the above mentioned informalities. As such, reconsideration of the objections to the claims is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 8-11 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 20030007380 (Houston).

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner’s indication that claims 6, 7 and 12-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicants have incorporated the features of claim 6 into independent claim 1 and the features of claim 12

into independent claim 9, to place claims 1 and 9 and the claims which depend therefrom in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houston in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,687,178 (Herr).

With regard to the rejections of claims 3-5, claims 3-5 are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1 from which they depend.

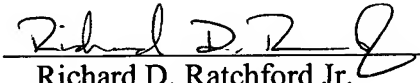
Dependent Claims

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that, in view of the amendments to the claims presented herein and, for at least similar reasons as why the independent claims from which the dependent claims depend are believed allowable as discussed, supra, the dependent claims are also allowable. Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims as herein presented are allowable over the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, and that the respective rejections be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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